



State of Connecticut
Department of Aging and Disability Services

Amy Porter – Commissioner

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
February 23, 2022

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee - my name is Amy Porter, and I am Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in support of Governor Lamont's recommended budget adjustments for the second half of the biennium, H.B. No. 5037, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023. Our agency is very grateful that Governor Lamont's budget continues his administration's strong commitment to persons with disabilities and older adults.

Our department's mission is "to maximize opportunities for the independence and well-being of people with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut." We have a diverse set of services that generally fall into five categories: employment, education, independent living, accessibility, and advocacy. We deliver these services with an incredible staff of approximately 450 dedicated professionals. ADS operates with a total budget of approximately \$122 million, 77% of which comes from the federal government. From state funding, we will expend \$30.9 next fiscal year. These state funds come from the General Fund, the Workers' Compensation Fund, and the Insurance Fund. On a federal level, we receive funding from the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and the Social Security Administration.

The Governor's recommended adjustments for fiscal year 2023 include one notable change. Our budget is decreased by \$818,798 in recognition of the move to a centralized Information Technology (IT) service model, whereby our IT staff and budgeted Personal Services (\$601,969) and Other Expenses (\$216,829) costs will move to the Department of Administrative Services budget. There are two additional changes – \$140,000 is transferred into our Other Expenses budget from the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget in recognition of lease costs at a regional office building we shared with DSS that was paid for by DSS, that has recently changed to two separate agency lease agreements, and \$70,000 is added to the Workers' Compensation Fund to align the budget with the actual Personal Services and Fringe Benefit costs for our Workers' Rehabilitation program, which is supported by that fund.

I want to thank Governor Lamont for his ongoing commitment to serving people with disabilities and the older residents of Connecticut. These budget adjustments allow the dedicated staff at the Department of Aging and Disability Services to continue working to maximize opportunities for the independence and well-being of people with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut.

I thank the committee for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.